

Senate File 394 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 394
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO SSB 1165)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to requirements school districts and accredited
2 nonpublic schools must meet to provide distance learning
3 classes that meet the requirements of Iowa's education
4 program.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 256.42, subsection 7, paragraph c, Code
2 2019, is amended to read as follows:

3 ~~c. Any specified subject course to which~~ If the provisions
4 of section 256.11, subsection 5, does not apply under are
5 made inapplicable under paragraph "a", or are waived under
6 paragraph "b" shall, the specified subject shall be provided
7 by the initiative if the initiative offers the course unless
8 the course offered by the initiative lacks the capacity
9 to accommodate additional students. In that case, the
10 specified subject course may instead be provided or by the
11 school district or accredited nonpublic school if an online
12 alternative satisfying the requirements of subparagraph (1)
13 or (2) can be made available through a good faith effort by
14 the school district or accredited nonpublic school. Any
15 course not required under section 256.11, subsection 5, may
16 also be provided by the initiative or by the school district
17 or accredited nonpublic school. However, in either case, if
18 offered by the school district or accredited nonpublic school,
19 the specified subject or course shall be offered through either
20 of the following applies means:

21 (1) ~~Through an~~ An online learning platform if the course
22 is developed by the school district or accredited nonpublic
23 school itself or is developed by a partnership or consortium
24 of schools that have developed the course individually or
25 cooperatively, provided the course is taught by an Iowa
26 licensed teacher with online learning experience and the
27 course content is aligned with the Iowa content standards and
28 satisfies the requirements of subsection 6. A partnership or
29 consortium of schools may include two or more school districts
30 or accredited nonpublic schools, or any combination thereof.

31 (2) ~~Through a~~ A private provider utilized to provide the
32 course that meets the standards of this section 256.42 and is
33 approved in accordance with section 256.9, subsection 55.

34 EXPLANATION

35 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with

1 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

2 This bill provides that school districts and accredited
3 nonpublic schools that are exempt from or that receive from
4 the department of education a waiver from certain offer and
5 teach requirements under the minimum education standards may
6 provide the specified subjects through the department's Iowa
7 learning online (ILO) initiative or by the school district or
8 the school's other online options.

9 Currently, statute provides that the educational program
10 requirements for certain courses at the high school level
11 shall not apply or may be waived by the department if a school
12 district or accredited nonpublic school is unable to employ
13 an appropriately licensed teacher for the specified course,
14 or too few students typically enroll in the specified course,
15 or the school district or school proved to the department's
16 satisfaction that the school district or school has made
17 every reasonable effort to meet Iowa's educational program
18 requirements for the specified course. However, the specified
19 course must be provided by the ILO unless the ILO lacks the
20 capacity, in which case the school district or school can offer
21 the course through an online platform or through a private
22 provider that meets certain standards.

23 The bill strikes the requirement that ILO provide the
24 course, and instead gives school districts and schools, or a
25 partnership or consortium of such school districts or schools
26 that have developed the course individually or collectively,
27 the option of using ILO or an online platform or a private
28 provider to provide the specified subject or any other course
29 that is not required under the state's education standards.